

WE CAN — San Joaquin Valley: Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 Scoring

The “WE CAN/Podemos — San Joaquin Valley” Landscape Renovation Rebate Program is specifically designed to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to Disadvantaged Communities, as defined by CalEnviroScreen 2.0. According to CalEnviroScreen 2.0, the vast majority of the San Joaquin Valley scores between 81 and 95%. Thus, the entire bioregion can be considered “disadvantaged.”

WE CAN — Rebates

The WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley Program will be implemented within the boundaries of a disadvantaged community. We have identified three Valley cities for our pilot; Fresno, Clovis, and Reedley; each of which is identified as a disadvantaged community. The vast majority of census tracts in the City of Fresno, with nearly 480,000 residents, has the highest possible CalEnviroScreen 2.0 score of 96-100%. Most of the remaining census tracts are still considered disadvantaged, scoring between 76-80% and 81-85%. Likewise, the City of Reedley, with 20,500 residents, is almost entirely a disadvantaged community with a CalEnviroScreen score of 91-95% (census tract 6019006602) and 96-100% (census tract 6019006700). The northwest corner of Reedley (census tract 6019006603, with a score of 51-55%) is the only area within the Reedley city boundary that does not meet or exceed the DAC threshold score. The western half of the City of Clovis (census tracts 6019005602) is also a disadvantaged community, with CalEnviroScreen scores of 81-85%. The city’s eastern half has CalEnviroScreen scores of 56-60% (census tract 6019005701) and 71-75% (census tract 6019005704). The city overall, with just under 100,000 residents, has an average score of 69-73%, thus also designating Clovis as a disadvantaged community (exceeding the 76% threshold score). All rebates provided through the “WE CAN — San Joaquin Valley” Program will be issued for landscape upgrades at homes within these three communities, and we will target rebate issuance to homes specifically within the highest scoring DAC census tracts.

The estimated breakdown of rebates per city is as follows:

City	Estimated # of Rebates	Estimated % of Total
Fresno	800	45%
Clovis	600	30%
Reedley	400	25%

Because one of Clovis’ three census tracts does not exceed the DAC threshold score of 76%, we reduce the percentage of rebates to DAC communities by 10% ($\frac{1}{3}$ of Clovis’ 30% allotment). Therefore, the overall impact of the WE CAN/Podemos — San Joaquin Valley landscape upgrade rebates is estimated to be approximately 1800 homes in 90% DAC communities (exceeding the CalEnviroScreen 76% score threshold), and 10% borderline DAC communities (with a CalEnviroScreen 2.0 scores of 56-60% and 71-75%).

WE CAN — Job Training

The “WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley” Program also includes a job training component to help independent landscape contractors and landscape laborers improve their marketability and employability. This will be achieved through landscape renovation workshops that teach best practices of turf removal, artificial turf installation, drought tolerant landscape installation, and maintenance. By acquiring these new skills, regional contractors and laborers will be better equipped to adjust to changing landscaping patterns. Contractors and laborers served by the job training workshops will be based in our three pilot project cities; Fresno, Clovis, and Reedley.

The breakdown of individuals anticipated to be served through the job training workshops is as follows:

City	# of Workshops	Estimated # of Total Participants	Estimated % of Total Participants
Fresno	3	90	60%
Clovis	1	35	23%
Reedley	1	25	17%

As illustrated above, all three of these cities include DAC census tracts. Two of Clovis’ three census tracts (66%) exceed the DAC score threshold of 76%. Therefore, we estimate that only 7.5% of our total estimated job training participants can be assumed to not be serving Disadvantaged Communities. The overall impact of the WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley landscape upgrade job training is estimated to be approximately 150 individuals in 92.5% Disadvantaged Communities (meeting or exceeding the 76% threshold), and 7.5% serving borderline DACs (with a CalEnviroScreen 2.0 score of 56-60% and 71-75%).

Because many of the target trainee population serve a larger geographical range, in some cases as much as 60+ miles, this component of the Program will have a wider sphere of benefit. The vast majority of the San Joaquin Valley is identified as disadvantaged via the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool; this wider sphere adds additional DAC benefit to the overall Program reach.

WE CAN — Ancillary benefits

In addition to the direct water use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions that will result from the WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley Program, we have identified a number of potential ancillary benefits of the Program to disadvantaged communities. Corollary benefits between reduced water use, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the following are well documented. Thus, we only provide a brief description of the connections, rather than a full discussion, below.

Water supply reliability: Since all three cities draw their water supply from the same aquifer, reducing the combined three city's water demand from outdoor water use by over 123 MG/year will reallocate saved water for other uses, thus increasing overall water supply reliability.

Drinking water quality improvements: As our three pilot cities all use their drinking water supply for outdoor water use, the reallocated water indicated above will remain in the drinking water supply, thus reducing concentrations of drinking water contaminants and improving overall water quality.

Increased employment: Participants in the WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley job training program will gain valuable skills, assisting their long-term employability and reducing their risk for unemployment, as landscape patterns change over time. The rebate incentives will entice a greater number of homeowners to upgrade landscaping, thus temporarily increasing the demand for landscape contracting and labor in the region. The long-term maintenance needs of these upgraded, drought-tolerant landscapes will help maintain a higher level of employment over the long-term.

Water service costs reductions: All three of our pilot project cities either have some form of graduated or tiered water rate structure, or are planning to develop such a structure in the future (fee per quantity of water). Therefore, residents that take advantage of the rebate program and upgrade their landscape could have reduced water bills, as a result of their decreased water use.

DAC Benefit Interim Guidance Criteria

Beyond the area of benefit identified by census tract via the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool, the WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley Program also meets or exceeds the criteria for benefit to Disadvantaged Communities as described in the Air Resources Board’s “Investments to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities: Interim Guidance to Agencies Administering Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Monies” (Interim Guidance).

The WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley Program falls within the category of “Water Use Efficiency” (Table A-5, of Interim Guidance) as a project that “will achieve GHG reductions by increasing the efficient use of water and decreasing the energy needed to supply, treat or transport water (e.g., ...installing water-saving fixtures and appliances; making landscaping more water-efficient...).” The program will provide rebates to landscape contractors to assist homeowners in removing water thirsty lawns and outdated inefficient landscape irrigation systems, replacing them with water-efficient drought-tolerant landscapes and state-of-the-art landscape irrigation systems.

The Program meets not only one, but both of the Step 1, “Located Within” criteria for water use efficiency:

- The WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley “...project provides water use efficiency incentives [in the form of landscape upgrade rebates] to [residential] water users...with a physical address in a DAC.” and
- The WE CAN/Podemos — San Joaquin Valley “...project improves, repairs, or replaces water system infrastructure [in the form of landscape irrigation systems] within a DAC.”

In regard to “Agency Guidance on Maximizing Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities,” the WE CAN/Podemos— San Joaquin Valley Program (if funded) will “benefit disadvantaged communities...in a way that exceeds the minimum 10 percent and 25 percent investment targets.” As illustrated above, 90% of the program’s rebates and 92.5% of job training will provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to DACs (meeting or exceeding the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 threshold score of 76%). The remaining 10% and 7.5%, respectively, will provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to borderline DACs (with a CalEnviroScreen 2.0 score of 56-60% and 71-75%). The WE CAN — San Joaquin Valley Program should be prioritized for funding, because it maximizes the most significant benefits to DACs in that outdoor water use accounts for 60% of total per capita water use, and will reduce outdoor water use by approximately 50% per participating household. Additionally, the program will maximize multiple benefits to DACs, as illustrated in the “Ancillary Benefits” section above.